

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 USSS-00 SY-05
OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 DODE-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4852

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01118

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), GW
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT TO EUROPE AND
JAPAN

REF: BONN 1096

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, THE CHANCELLERY HAS EXPRESSED
AN INTEREST, AND PROVIDED IN THE SCHEDULE, FOR A CALL BY
THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT ON FRG PRESIDENT SCHEEL. WE
HAVE NOT CONFIRMED THAT SUCH A CALL WOULD BE MADE.

2. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A FEW WORDS, AFTER DISCUSSION
WITH ADVANCE MAN KENIN HERE.

3. I UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VICE PRESIDENT-
ELECT'S RELUCTANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN CEREMONIAL/
PROTOCOL EVENTS. I FULLY AGREE WITH THAT, GIVEN THE
CHARACTER OF THIS VISIT AND ITS PURPOSES.

4. THE REASON WE ORIGINALLY RECOMMENDED A CALL ON
PRESIDENT SCHEEL WAS THAT WE DO NOT REGARD SUCH A
CALL AS A PURELY CEREMONIAL EVENT.

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--FIRST, SCHEEL IS AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURE
IN HIS OWN RIGHT, AS A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND AS AN
INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WITHOUT
WHICH SCHMIDT COULD NOT GOVERN.

--SECOND, A CALL ON SCHEEL, OR, MORE PRECISELY, THE

LACK OF A CALL ON SCHEEL, WOULD HAVE A POLITICAL IMPACT HERE. AS WE UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT'S VISIT, IT IS TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE THAT WE WISH TO COLLABORATE MORE CLOSELY WITH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE GERMAN BODY POLITIC. A FAILURE TO SEE SCHEEL COULD CONVEY A DIFFERENT IMPRESSION, AND COULD RESULT IN A MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE POLITICAL IMPACT HERE.

--THIRD, AND RELATED TO THE SECOND POINT, IS THE NATURE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT SHOULD NOT CALL ON THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND, THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN, AND THE KING OF BELGIUM. HOWEVER, WHERE CHIEFS OF STATE HAVE POLITICAL FUNCTIONS AND POLITICAL CAREERS, AS IN FRANCE, GERMANY, AND ITALY, A CALL ON A CHIEF OF STATE TAKES ON MORE OF A POLITICAL THAN A CEREMONIAL DIMENSION. SINCE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT WILL BE SEEING GISCARD AND LEONI, A CALL ON SCHEEL WOULD APPEAR TO BE APPROPRIATE (THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THE DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES GRANTED TO CHIEFS OF STATE UNDER THE RESPECTIVE CONSTITUTIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES.).

4. I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT CAN GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO SUCH A CALL. IT WOULD NOT TAKE MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR OUT OF HIS SCHEDULE AND IT WOULD BE A HALF HOUR WELL SPENT.
STOESSEL

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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